

November 21, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: CONGRESS TO ADJOURN

On November 20, 2002, after passing H.R. 5005, a bill to create a Homeland Security Department, the Senate adjourned for the year. The House will convene on Friday, November 22, 2002, to clear H.R. 5005 for the President's signature, and then adjourn, ending the 107th Session of Congress.

Congress will adjourn without passing 11 of the 13 appropriations bills for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003, including all the bills containing Federal discretionary funding for County programs. In the meantime, the current continuing resolution provides funding for Federal programs through January 11, 2003 at their FFY 2002 levels, including the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. It does not include any funding increases for existing programs, such as bioterrorism funds for hospitals, or any funding for new programs, such as for first responder grants. After the 108th Congress convenes on January 7, 2003, it will first consider an extension of the continuing resolution. The Congressional leadership and the Bush Administration want to complete action on the FFY 2003 Budget as early in the year as possible.

County Washington Advocates Randy Davis and Franklin Logan prepared the attached memorandum on the Federal budget outlook for the coming session. Their assessment is that the growing Federal budget deficit, coupled with the priorities of the newly elected Republican majority in Congress and the Bush Administration are likely to lead to significant cuts in non-defense discretionary spending. Especially vulnerable to budget cuts will be domestic programs aiding state and local governments, such as the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, which are not associated with homeland security.

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In addition to not completing action on most FFY 2003 appropriations bills, the 107th Congress also adjourned without acting on a host of other issues, including Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding and TANF reauthorization. We are preparing an end-of-session report on Federal legislation of County interest that will be sent to your Board.

We will continue to keep you advised of any new developments.

DEJ:GK
RT:TJ:MT:ib

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist